

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-11 /080 W

----- 085030

P 291240Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7311

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 02771

E. O. 1L652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, VS, VN

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE ATTENDANCE AT FRENCH COMMUNIST
PARTY MEETING, FEBRUARY 4 - 8

1. QUAI DESK OFFICER FOR VIETNAM, VILLEMUR, TOLD EMB-OFF THAT MADAME BINH AND ONE OTHER WOMAN WOULD BE COMING TO PARIS IN EARLY FEBRUARY AS "SOUTH VIETNAMESE" REPRESENTATIVES AT THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY MEETING FEBRUARY 4 - 8. QUAI UNDERSTANDS CPF INVITED LAO DONG PARTY REPRESENTATIVES "FROM THE NORTH" (APPARENTLY LE DUC THO), BUT NO REPLY HAS AS YET BEEN RECEIVED.

2. VILLEMUR NOTED IT WAS SOMEHAT ANOMALOUS TO HAVE INVITED MADAME BINH, "PRG FOREIGN MINISTER", WHEN DELEGATIONS ARE USUALLY OF A PARTY NATURE. MADAME BINH WAS ONE OF THE NOMINAL LEADERS OF THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY OF SOUTH VIETNAM, BUT SINCE THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS HAVE BEHAVED AS THOUGH THEY NEVER CLAIMED THIS PSEUDO-PARTY EVER EXISTED, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE THE PARTY STATUS WHICH WOULD ENTITLE MADAME BINH TO BE OBSERVER FROM A FRATERNAL PARTY. IF LE DUC THO WILL BE THE LAO DONG REPRESENTATIVE, HE WILL CERTAINLY CONSIDER HE REPRESENTS
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THE ENTIRE PARTY.

3. ON THE OTHER HAND, VILLEMUR NOTED, SINCE THE PCF
SO OFTEN DEALT WITH BINH ANDTHO IN THE CONTEXT OF
THE VIETNAM TALKS IN PARIS, THE PCF PROBABLY FELT THE
INVITATIONS TO THE TWO "OLD FRIENDS" WAS AN UNDER-
STANDABLE, THOUGH NON-PROTOCOLARY, GESTURE.
GAMMON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPRESENTATION AT CEREMONIES, COMMUNISTS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PARIS02771
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760034-0222
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976019/aaaaahpr.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIETNAMESE ATTENDANCE AT FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY MEETING, FEBRUARY 4 - 8
TAGS: PFOR, FR, VS, VN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006